

REMARKS

Upon entry of the claim amendments, Claims 1-32 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants have made editorial amendments to Claims 1-29.

Amended Claim 30 is supported by the description at page 16 of the specification and FIG. 5.

New Claims 31 and 32 are supported by original Claims 3 and 29, respectively.

No new matter has been added.

Referring to Section No. 1 at page 2 of the Office Action, Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's decision to remove the **restriction requirement** and examine Claims 1-30 together.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter at Section No. 5 (pages 5 and 6) of the Office Action.

In response to the claim objections at Section Nos. 2 and 3 (pages 2-4) of the Action, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 at Section No. 4 (pages 4 and 5) of the Action, Applicants have amended Claims 1-30 and added new Claims 31 and 32. As amended, Claims 1-32 overcome the objections raised by the Examiner and satisfy each and every requirement of §112.

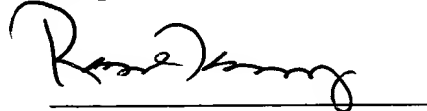
Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 09/622,359

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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